

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 01617 01 OF 02 080956Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/035 W

-----063937 081027Z /11

R 080910Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7213
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1617

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, WB
SUBJECT: FORMER HAMBURG JUSTICE SENATOR ELECTED TO REPLACE BAUMANN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1584, (B) USBERLIN 1516, (C) USBERLIN 1253

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING RAUCOUS DEBATE FORMER HAMBURG SENATOR
FOR JUSTICE GERHARD MORITZ MEYER (FDP) WAS ELECTED JULY 6
TO REPLACE BERLIN SENATOR FOR JUSTICE BAUMANN WHO RESIGNED
EARLIER THIS WEEK. BERLIN HOUSE HAS ADJOURNED FOR THE
SUMMER AND, ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
WILL CONTINUE ITS'S INVESTIGATION INTO MOABIT PRISON
BREAKOUT, IT NOW APPEARS LOCAL SCENE SHOULD QUIET DOWN
UNTIL EARLY FALL. EN SUMMARY

1. BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ELECTED GERHARD
MORITZ MEYER TO REPLACE JUERGAN BAUMANN AS JUSTICE
SENATOR. MEYER, WHO RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS SENATOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 01617 01 OF 02 080956Z

FOR JUSTICE ON JUNE 28 FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE HAMBURG
FDP TO RETAIN ITS SEATS IN THE HAMBURG PARILIAMENT,
WAS ELECTED 75 TO 68 WITH FOUR ABSTENTIONS. ONE
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE WAS ABSENT. MEYER WAS THE CANDIDATE
FAVORED BY THE BERLIN FDP CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG LUEDER AS
WELL AS BY OUTGOING SENATOR BAUMANN WHO RECOMMENDED
MEYER FOR THE POSITION.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW MEYER CHARACTERIZED HIMSELF AS A "LIBERAL REALIST" AND SAID HE WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND WAS WILLING TO LEARN ABOUT HIS NEW POSITION IN BERLIN. HE CLAIMED HE CAME WITH NO PRECONCEIVED PLANS FOR ADMINISTERING BERLIN'S TROUBLED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUT HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE WOULD STRESS THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY IN BERLIN'S JAILS AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PROBLEMS THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION WITH HIS STAFF AND OTHER COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN. (COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INSIDERS AND CAME OUT INTO THE PUBLIC DURING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS, THAT SENATOR BAUMANN HAS LONG BEEN AT ODDS WITH HIS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STAFF. SENAT DIRECTOR ALEXANDER VON STAHL HAS OFTEN EXPRESSED TO MISSION OFFICERS HIS OPEN DISAGREEMENT WITH BAUMANN ON ALL MANNER OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PROBLEMS. THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONFUSION AT MOABIT PRISON. END COMMENT)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 01617 02 OF 02 081023Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/035 W

-----064346 081028Z /11

R 080910Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1617

3. COMMENTING ON HIS POSITION WITHIN THE FDP MEYER

CONCEDED THAT HE HAD LEARNED AS A RESULT OF THE HAMBURG ELECTIONS THAT IT WAS NOT A GOOD POLICY TO CARRY OUT FEUDS WITH COALITION PARTNERS IN PUBLIC. HE ADDED, THAT HE SAW NO PARTICULAR BASIS FOR CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE FDP IN BERLIN.

4. BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT MEYER WILL FIT IN WELL WITH THE REST OF HIS SENATE TEAM AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE HIM REMAIN AS PART OF THE CABINET AFTER NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION. STOBBE ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HAMBURG'S MAYOR, HANS-ULRICH KLOSE, HAD DESCRIBED MEYER TO HIM AS A QUIET, LEVEL HEADED POLITICIAN, ESPECIALLY SUITED TO BRING HIS AREA OF ADMINISTRATION UNDER CONTROL. STOBBE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED MEYER TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES WHICH WOULD MAKE A REPETITION OF THE TILL MEYER ESCAPE IMPOSSIBLE. STOBBE PROMISED SENATOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 01617 02 OF 02 081023Z

MEYER THAT THOSE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY AT MOABIT PRISON AND OTHER PRISONS WOULD BE CARRIED THROUGH TO COMPLETION TO INSURE MAXIMUM SECURITY.

5. BERLIN CDU OPPOSITION INITIALLY RESPONDED TO MEYER'S NOMINATION IN A SOMEWHAT RESERVED FASHION. THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HOUSE MEETING ON JULY 6 AT WHICH MEYER WAS ELECTED SENATOR TO CUT LOSE WITH A BARRAGE OF ABUSE AND ACCUSATION DIRECTED MUCH LESS AT MEYER THAN AT GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE AND FDP CHAIRMAN LUEDER. DURING THE HOUSE DEBATE, WHICH WAS ONE OF THE MOST RAUCOUS AND DISORDERLY IN THE PAST YEAR, CDU POLITICIANS, PRINCIPALLY FLOOR LEADER HEINRICH LUMMER, ACCUSED STOBBE AND LUEDER OF HAVING PROTECTED BAUMANN OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS INSTEAD OF FIRING HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TILL MEYER BREAKOUT. WITHOUT EXCEPTION COALITION SPOKESMAN COUNTERED CDU COMPLAINTS BY DEMANDING BERLIN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS LOOK TO THEIR PARTY'S OWN BACKYARD IN BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG AND GET RID OF MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER. SOMEWHAT LOST IN THE DEBATE WAS THE FIGURE OF SENATOR MEYER HIMSELF. HIS ELECTION WAS SOMEWHAT CLOSER THAN ANTICIPATED SINCE THREE COALITION PARTY MEMBERS AND APPARENTLY AN OPPOSITION MEMBER ABSTAINED. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD TWO OF THE THREE COALITION ABSTENTIONS CAME FROM FDP HOUSE CAUCUS LEADER HORST VETTER AND FORMER JUSTICE SENATOR, ONCE REMOVED, HERMANN OXFORT. BOTH OF THEM REPORTEDLY FAVORED NOMINATION OF A BERLIN PERSONALITY TO FILL THE BAUMANN VACANCY. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, A "BERLIN SOLUTION" WOULD HAVE INVOLVED SHIFTING LUEDER FROM ECONOMICS TO JUSTICE AND REPLACING HIM WITH VETTER. OXFORT WOULD THEN HAVE REPLACED VETTER AS HOUSE CAUCUS LEADER. THIS

PROPOSAL WAS INITIALLY PREFERRED BY A SLIM MAJORITY
OF THE BERLIN FDP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. LUEDER, HOW-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 01617 02 OF 02 081023Z

EVER, STRONGLY OPPOSED IT AND WAS ABLE TO GET HIS
CANDIDATE NOMINATED.

6. BAUMANN'S REPLACEMENT BY MEYER, THE ADJOURNMENT
OF THE BERLIN HOUSE, AND THE EXPECTED CONCLUSION OF
THE PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WORK BY
JULY 20 SHOULD MEAN THAT THE "BAUMANN AFFAIR" WILL
BEGIN TO REcede INTO THE BACKGROUND. WITH THE VISIT
OF PRESIDENT CARTER HERE UPON US AND THE BERLIN SCHOOL
VACATION BEGINNING SHORTLY THEREAFTER IT IS VERY
LIKELY THAT ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN AWAY FROM THE
FDP AND THE COALITION GOVERNMENT AND A PERIOD OF
INTERNAL POLITICAL QUIET SHOULD SET IN UNTIL THE RE-
TURN OF THE HOUSE IN THE EARLY FALL.

7. FOR HAMBURG: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
ANY BIOGRAPHIC DATA YOU MAY HAVE ON MEYER. PLEASE
INFO DEPARTMENT IF IT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED IT. GEORGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, BYELECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0764
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780782/aaaacrau.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f099e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 1584, 78 USBERLIN 1516, 78 USBERLIN 1253
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2076917
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER HAMBURG JUSTICE SENATOR ELECTED TO REPLACE BAUMANN
TAGS: PINT, WB, (MEYER, GERHARD MORITZ)
To: STATE HAMBURG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f099e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014